

Office of the Mayor City of Danbury, CT

Contact: Taylor O'Brien 203-797-4511 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 30, 2021

DANBURY SEEKING MURALIST FOR MARIAN ANDERSON PROJECT

Danbury, CT - The City of Danbury has announced <u>a search for a muralist</u> to design and paint a mural honoring the classical singer and Civil Rights pioneer, Marian Anderson, on 300 Main Street in downtown Danbury.

"Marian Anderson meant so much to the Danbury people, and we hope that this mural will inspire folks to continue to share her story throughout our community," said Mayor Joseph M. Cavo. The chosen artist(s) has the opportunity to meet with the Danbury Museum & Historical Society Director Brigid Guertin to view Danbury's collection of Marian Anderson's personal belongings, and develop their concept with historical accuracy.

As a Danbury resident, Ms. Anderson was a supporter of the arts, and served as a board member at the Danbury Music Centre. Its recital hall is now named after her. The mural project hopes to provide an accessible opportunity for residents, visitors, and students to admire and educate themselves about Ms. Anderson's contributions to both our community and our nation.

Savings Bank of Danbury has generously partnered with the City of Danbury to provide half of the funding for this project. "We are honored to work with the City on this mural," said Martin G. Morgado, President and CEO of Savings Bank of Danbury. "This project will honor Marian Anderson's legacy and contributions for years to come."

The City of Danbury wishes to thank Joseph DaSilva Jr. of DaSilva Realty for graciously offering the use of the wall at 300 Main Street for this project, and CityCenter Danbury for assisting in the development and selection process.

The Marian Anderson Mural Selection Committee:

Mayor Joseph M. Cavo, City of Danbury Sharon Calitro, Director of Planning, City of Danbury Beth Ann Fetzer, Savings Bank of Danbury Lisa Scails, Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut
Brigid Guertin, Danbury Museum & Historical Society
Joseph DaSilva, Jr., DaSilva Realty
With additional input and guidance from CityCenter Danbury, and the CityCenter Arts & Aesthetics Committee

Do you want to be a part of the project?

The City is seeking input from residents to create a mural that represents Marian Anderson's time in Danbury and her influence on the community.

Did you or someone in your family know Marian Anderson personally? Do you have a story to share about her time in Danbury? Has Marian Anderson's legacy influenced or inspired you in some way? Tell us! We want to hear about it.

Email your stories to <u>t.obrien@danbury-ct.gov</u> with the subject line "Marian Anderson Story" and your comments will be given to the chosen artist to help develop the final artwork.

The Call to Artists is available at www.danbury-ct.gov/marianmural.

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